

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: SOPN, PINT, PO
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION - NEW PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT

1. PARTY REACTIONS: JANUARY 20 PRESS REPORTED PARTY AND
LABOR STATEMENTS ON AGREEMENT FOR NEW PS-CDS BASED
SECOND CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

2. PS: PARTY LEADER SALGADO ZENHA TOLD PRESS THAT THE
NEW GOVERNMENT WAS "A DEMOCRATIC, WHOLESOME AND PATRIOTIC
SOLUTION" TO PORTUGAL'S PRESENT POLITICAL PROBLEMS.
HE SAID THAT UNDER EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES, PCP PARTICIPATION
IN THE GOVERNMENT WAS "UNTHINKABLE" ALTHOUGH HE ADDED
THAT THE PS WANTS TO MAINTAIN A DIALOGUE WITH THE COMMUNISTS.
HE CRITICIZED THE PSD POLICY AS TOO "PERSONALIZED" UNDER
THE INFLUENCE OF SA CARNEIRO, BUT SAID THAT THE SOCIALISTS
WERE STILL WILLING "TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH THE PSD IF IT
PROVED POSSIBLE TO DO SO WITHIN OUR PARTY POLICY LINES."

3. CDS: FREITAS DO AMARAL SAID HIS PARTY'S ACCORD WITH
THE SOCIALISTS WAS "GOOD ENOUGH TO BE A NATIONAL,
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LASTING, AND EFFECTIVE SOLUTION." HE SAID THAT WHILE HIS
PARTY DIFFERED IN SOME RESPECTS WITH THE SOCIALISTS,
"WE ALSO HAVE VARIOUS POINTS IN COMMON: THE SAME
CONCEPT OF PLURALIST DEMOCRACY, THE SAME BELIEF THAT
PORTUGAL'S DESTINY POINTS TO ITS INTEGRATION IN THE
EC, THE SAME ANALYSIS OF THE PRESENT POLITICAL
SITUATION WHICH REQUIRES FROM US AN EFFORT TO MAKE

PORTUGUESE SOCIETY LESS DRAMATIC, AND A SERIOUS ATTEMPT TO SOLVE THE CONOMIC CRISIS."

4. PSD: SOUSA FRANCO BLAMED MARIO SOARES FOR "CONDUCTING NEGOTIATIONS FROM THE OUTSET IN A WAY THAT KEPT US FROM COMPLETING AN AGREEMENT IN IDENTICAL TERMS WITH THAT SIGNED WITH THE CDS." HE UNDERLINED THE PSD'S POSITION OF OPPOSITION TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

5. PC: ALVARO CUNHAL CALLED THE PS-CDS GOVERNMENT "A BAD SOLUTION WHICH DOES NOT MEET THE NEEDS OF THE WORKERS." HE SAID A PS-PCP AGREEMENT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE IN THE FUTURE "AS PS LEADERSHIP REALIZES THAT A COALITION WITH CDS FAILS TO MEET WORKERS' NEEDS."

6. LABOR: IN A PRELIMINARY STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED INTERSINDICAL NATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION, A SPOKESMAN EXPRESSED STRONG RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE PS-CDS GOVERNMENT. THE SPOKESMAN SAID SUCH A GOVERNMENT "DOES NOT RESPECT THE CONSTITUTION NOR DOES IT SATISFY THE WORKER'S STRONGEST DESIRES." THE "CARTA ABERTA" LABOR GROUP SAID THAT A PS-CDS ACCORD "COULD POSTPONE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIALISM" IN PORTUGAL, AND WARNED THAT "ECONOMIC RECOVERY WILL UNCLASSIFIED

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HAVE TO BE ATTAINED WITH PARTICIPATION BY THE WORKERS, WHO MUST NOT LOSE PURCHASING POWER..."

7. OTHER ORGANIZATIONS: THE CONFEDERATION OF PORTUGUESE INDUSTRY (CIP) SAID THAT "WHAT MATTERS IS THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAVE THE NECESSARY AND ADEQUATE OPERATIONAL ABILITY TO IMPLEMENT ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL POLICIES AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS DEEMED ESSENTIAL."

THE CONFEDERATION OF PORTUGUESE FARMERS (CAP) SAID IT WOULD WAIT TO SEE THE COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH IT BELIEVED WOULD BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE NAME OF THE PRIME MINISTER. CAP ADDED THAT "IF DR. MARIO SOARES DOES NOT MAKE FAR-REACHING CHANGES IN HIS POLITICAL PERFORMANCE, THEN THE FATE OF THIS GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BE DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE FIRST SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT." CAP EMPHASIZED ITS DEMAND FOR DEFENSE OF "THE INTERESTS OF PRIVATE INITIATIVE AND PRIVATELY OWNED ENTERPRISES."

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